

## ***Glas Journal: A Deep Mapping of Dún Laoghaire Harbour***

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In Irish, the word *glas* is reserved for the indefinite shades of green, blue and grey that are present in the sea. I take this chromatic generosity as a marker for this alternative mapping project that crosses art with geography and is called *Glas Journal*.

### ***Glas Journal 2015; Exhibition in the Maritime Museum on Haigh Terrace, Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2015, 4-6pm***

I am currently creating the first series of books that form the basis for *Glas Journal 2015*. 14 hand-size and hand-made artist books will represent 14 sequential harbour locations between the West and the East Pier bordering the sea. The books have been made in my studio space in the old Coast Guard Station, one of the spaces that shape this particular stretch of coastline. A scenographic representation of the two harbour arms will be set up in the former Mariners' Church, now housing the Maritime Museum of Ireland, to evoke the meanings of the harbour as a sanctuary or space of protection. The journals will be homed in this haven as if they are reference points on a maritime map.

### ***Glas Journal 2016; Exhibition Spaces: Maritime Museum; East Pier Light House***

For *Glas Journal 2016*, 14 handmade books will be made with people who live and work in Dún Laoghaire Harbour to record what the harbour space means to them. In order to make these journals, I am seeking the help of residents based in the old Coast Guard Station as well as of individuals who work with RNLI Life Boats, in the Ferry Terminal and the Marina, in the various Yacht Clubs (Motor; Royal Irish; Royal St. George; National Irish), for the Commissioners of Irish Lights, for MGM Boats, for the Quay Fish Shop, for the Sailing School, for the Power Boat School, and for St. Michael's Rowing Club. A personalised 'Glas Journal' will be made for each location with participants who agree to take part in the documentation of 'their' place in the harbour.

### **Project Ethics**

*Glas Journal* is an arts project that explores the emotional responses of a community to its locality. Participants will be provided with information and consent forms, as confidentiality and anonymity during the research process and in subsequent outputs will be maintained throughout. The project is based on the creation and interpretation of work developed through a collaborative process between the residents and workers in Dún Laoghaire Harbour and myself, an artist and resident of this particular area. The quality of this engagement is considered at all stages and the creative contributions of all participants will be honoured. They are fully involved in the planning, making, presentation and evaluation of the journals.

### **Funding and Support**

This 2-year project is funded by the Irish Research Council. It is supported and mentored by Dr. Karen Till from Maynooth University/Department of Geography. It has additional support from Dr. Noel Fitzpatrick from DIT GradCAM/Department of Art, Design & Print, and from the National Irish Visual Arts Library (NIVAL).

### **Biography**

Dr. Silvia Loeffler is an artist, researcher and educator in Visual Culture. Visual material and critical writing are her guides to establish a narrative of public intimacy. She is currently an IRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Maynooth University in the Department of Geography, and has lectured in the National College of Art and Design and in the Dublin Institute of Technology/Art, Design & Print on the psychology and the deep-mapping of spaces. Silvia was awarded postdoctoral research funding from the Irish Research Council (2014-16) for *Glas Journal: A Deep Mapping of Dún Laoghaire Harbour*, a participatory mapping project based on concepts of belonging and the multiple meanings of 'harbour'.